

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM DIRECTOR & ELKO COUNTY SCHEDULE TRAIL CENTER EVENT

A public event to celebrate the start of access road construction to Elko's future California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center is planned for Saturday, October 23rd, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. at the Trail Center site. The site is located just off I-80 Hunter Exit (8 miles west of Elko) on the north side of the interstate. The public is invited to attend.

Partners in the Trails Center – California Trails Center Advisory Committee, City of Elko, Elko County, State of Nevada, Maggie Creek Ranch, Nevada Senator Harry Reid's Office, and BLM Director Kathleen Clarke will give brief presentations. The event will honor several individuals who have contributed to the project.

The City of Elko committed \$2 million to the project; Elko County committed \$1 million; and the State of Nevada committed \$3 million. Senator Harry Reid was successful in sponsoring Senate Bill S.2749 which authorizes the appropriation of up to \$12 million for the Trail Center. The late William Searle of Maggie Creek Ranch donated 40 acres and a road easement for the site of the Center west of Elko.

While interpreted to some extent at other facilities, no one interpretive center exists that deals solely with the California Trail. The future center in Elko will be unique.

"The California Trail Center project began as a private citizen's grassroots effort," said BLM Elko Field Manager Helen Hankins. "The support for the project has its basis in the local community. Recognizing that no one entity had sufficient resources to fund such an undertaking, the local community supporters used collaboration and partnership to obtain the financial commitments needed. The success of the project will remain with that spirit of collaborative partnership."

"We invite everyone to join us for the Trail Center celebration. There will be a 19th Century emigrant trail camp set up, guided tours of the building site, and we plan to have a ribbon cutting to kick off the actual road building," Hankins concluded.

In the event of inclement weather, the Trail Center event will be held at the Northeastern Nevada Museum Theater, 1515 Idaho Street, in Elko. For more information about the California National Historic Trails Interpretive Center or the October 23rd event, contact David Jamiel at the BLM Elko Field Office (775) 753-0213.

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